



# Boston union under siege

## 'Which side are you on?'

By Martha Grevatt

"There's no such thing as neutral. You have to be on one side or the other. In Harlan County there wasn't no neutral."

This is how Florence Reece, spouse of National Miners Union organizer Sam Reece, described life in the Kentucky coal fields in 1931.

Sheriff J.H. Blair sent his deputies to the Reece family home looking for Sam, who had learned the law was after him and escaped. The deputies instead terrorized Florence and her children. Incidents like this were commonplace in mining country throughout the 1930s.

After the gun thugs left, Florence Reece composed one of labor's most beloved anthems: "Which Side Are You On?" Set to the music of a familiar hymn, the song pointedly states, "If you go to Harlan County / There is no neutral there / You'll either be a union man / Or a thug for J.H. Blair." The chorus then repeats the question, "Which side are you on?"

With the trial of Boston union leader Stevan Kirschbaum on trumped-up felony charges beginning March 3, this question is as relevant as ever. The union of Boston school bus drivers, Steelworkers Local 8751, is in the crosshairs of the entire ruling-class establishment. There are no neutrals there.

### Class struggle in Boston

This historic union, one-of-a-kind in the belly of the beast, has not gone unnoticed by the international capitalist class. The union's will to struggle has put it in a life-or-death situation with Veolia, one of the largest transnational corporations in the world.

Immediately after the illegal lockout of the bus drivers on Oct. 8, 2013, without bothering to get the union's version of the events, the ruling establishment launched a red-baiting attack. Employing Cold War McCarthyite rhetoric, the Boston Globe assailed Kirschbaum for his activism, radicalism, militancy and anti-racism, and his Workers World Party affiliation.

The paper's diatribe portrayed him as "polarizing" and "menacing, narcis-

istic and dangerously disruptive." The then mayor, Thomas Menino, attacked Kirschbaum as a "bully" and part of a "rogue element" within the union. But the workers all come to listen and applaud when Kirschbaum speaks at the almost daily rallies at the bus yards. And at each court appearance, co-workers come out in force to show Kirschbaum their solidarity and support.

After the bogus charges were filed, the Globe ran more libelous, "guilty until proven innocent" attacks on Kirschbaum and the union and chastised Local 8751 for "filing dozens of grievances, coddling its lunatic fringe, and ranting about injustices in far-off lands." With no evidence, the charges — including the two that were subsequently dropped — were presented as fact. In this way, through

*Continued on page 4*

## Drop the bogus charges!



TOP PHOTO: TEAM SOLIDARITY; ABOVE, WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Top: Second from left Stevan Kirschbaum of USW Local 8751 faces trumped-up felony charges. Above: Kirschbaum speaks to crowd of supporters of Local 8751.

### Mother slain by police at Home Depot



Demanding justice for Yvette Henderson, protesters shut down Home Depot in California. See page 6.

WWW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

## INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S MONTH 8

• Black Women's Lives Matter

• Lorraine Hansberry

### SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

4 weeks trial \$4  1 year subscription \$30  
 Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program  
[workers.org/articles/donate/supporters\\_/](http://workers.org/articles/donate/supporters_/)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Workers World 212-627-2994  
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011 [workers.org](http://workers.org)

### RESISTING RACISM 6-7

- Justice for victims of killer cops
- Malcolm X's legacy of struggle

### GREECE 9

### UKRAINE 10

### WORKERS FIGHT BACK

- Boston union fights racism 4
- Walmart workers win raises 5
- No 'right to work' in Wisconsin 5
- Adjunct profs demand more 5

# Thousands at annual NC rights march

Thousands gathered in downtown Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 14 for the annual “Historic Thousands on Jones Street” march. “HKonJ” is a coalition of over 100 civil rights, faith and labor groups fighting for legislative reform in North Carolina. North Carolina NAACP President William Barber III promised during his speech that if recent attacks by the state legislature against voting rights and Medicaid are not reversed by Easter, his organization would restart the Moral Monday civil disobedience actions that led to over 1,000 arrests over the past two years while fighting for justice.

After the march, youth gathered at Estey Hall at Shaw University, the birthplace of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, to hold the first BlackLivesMatter Youth Assembly. Youth and students from across



North Carolina met to create a youth-centered agenda for action in the coming year.

— Report and photo by WW Durham, N.C., Bureau

## Celebrating a freedom fighter’s release

New York



In spite of freezing weather, hundreds of people filled the auditorium of The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in Harlem, N.Y., on Feb. 15, to see former political prisoner Sekou Odinga. This welcome home celebration follows his release from

a U.S. prison on Nov. 25, after serving a 34-year sentence.

Sekou was honored for his role in the Black Panther Party, the Black Liberation Army, and for being a Muslim, New Afrikan and prisoner of war. He was unjustly framed on six counts of attempted murder of police for “fighting for the freedom of Black people and the building of the Republic of New Africa.” (sekouodinga.com)

Odinga was targeted by Cointelpro, the FBI’s infamous counterintelligence program, which was aimed at the Civil Rights and Black Liberation movements, and other political movements in the United States from the mid-1950s up through 1971. When he was captured in 1981, he was tortured. Odinga was convicted in 1984 and sentenced to a prison term of 25 years to life.

Sekou Odinga spoke and thanked his attorney, Lynne

*Continued on page 3*

## Youth fight low wages and racist police terror

By Tommy Cavanaugh  
Rockford, Ill.

The militant youth group “Fight Imperialism, Stand Together” held a forum in downtown Rockford, Ill., on Feb. 8 that linked the fight against low wages with the struggle against racist police terror. The panel featured two prominent local activists: Denzel Baldwin, a fast food striker and worker organizing in the fight for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage, and Chris Sims, a human rights activist who went to Ferguson, Mo., during the recent rebellion there while continuing local organizing against racism and police brutality. Representing FIST on the program was Dylan Garcia, a low-wage worker.

The featured guest speaker on the panel was Lamont Lilly from Workers World Party in North Carolina. Lilly connected the local struggles against racist oppression with not only the broader national picture but also the historical roots of national oppression and the resistance against it. The forum brought together organized labor; faith-based organizers; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people; and Black and white youth into a discussion on how to link their organizing efforts and continue to build solidarity for future work. □

# WORKERS WORLD this week

### ★ In the U.S.

- Boston union under siege ..... 1
- Thousands at annual NC rights march ..... 2
- Youth fight low wages and racist police terror ..... 2
- New York: Celebrating a freedom fighter’s release ..... 2
- Stop the execution of Rodney Reed! ..... 3
- State to investigate cop killing of Kevin Davis ..... 3
- Stolen Lives rally focuses on Eric Garner ..... 3
- Detroit youth: ‘I stand with Boston bus drivers’ ..... 4
- Boston union solidarizes with oil strikers ..... 4
- Struggle wins Walmart raises ..... 5
- Wisconsin workers mobilize to stop ‘right-to-work’ bill... 5
- Philadelphia: Adjuncts march for union rights ..... 5
- Demanding justice for Yvette Henderson ..... 6
- Pasco, Wash.: Protesters demand justice for farm worker . 6
- Cleveland: Justice for Tamir Rice and Tanisha Anderson .. 6
- Malcolm X and Black Lives Matter ..... 7
- ‘Who killed Brandon Tate-Brown?’ ..... 7
- Black Women’s Lives Matter ..... 8
- Lorraine Hansberry: Political activist, artist ..... 8
- Oil train derails, explodes in W. Va. .... 10

### ★ Around the world

- Syriza backs down to euro bankers ..... 9
- A defeat for fascist forces in Ukraine ..... 10
- U.S. militarism breeds instability in Libya, Nigeria ..... 11
- Police attack protest in Kolkata, India ..... 11
- Moscow march against fascism in Ukraine ..... 11
- Forum for Justice in Palestine draws hundreds in Beirut . 11

### ★ Editorial

- Protest war criminal Netanyahu ..... 10

### ★ Noticias en Español

- Gobierno Bolivariano detiene intento de golpe ..... 12
- 5.000 obreros petroleros en huelga ..... 12

Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: ww@workers.org  
Web: www.workers.org  
Vol. 57, No. 9 • March 5, 2015  
Closing date: Feb. 24, 2015  
Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Technical Editors: Lal Roohk, Andy Katz  
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson  
West Coast Editor: John Parker  
Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac  
Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Keith Fine, Bob McCubbin  
Mundo Obrero: Ramiro Sebastián Fúnez, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator  
Copyright © 2014 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.

# WORKERS WORLD PARTY

## Who we are & what we’re fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers’ living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 56 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions. □

### Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

### workers.org/wwp

**National Office**  
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
wwp@workers.org

**Bay Area**  
1305 Franklin St. #411  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.600.5800  
bayarea@workers.org

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.286.6574  
boston@workers.org

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
712 Main St #113B  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.883.2534  
buffalo@workers.org

**Atlanta**  
P.O. Box 5565  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
404.627.0185  
atlanta@workers.org

**Baltimore**  
c/o Solidarity Center  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
443.221.3775  
baltimore@workers.org

**Chicago**  
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138  
Chicago, IL 60606  
312.229.0161  
chicago@workers.org

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.738.0320  
cleveland@workers.org

**Denver**  
denver@workers.org

**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313.459.0777  
detroit@workers.org

**Durham, N.C.**  
804 Old Fayetteville St.  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.322.9970  
durham@workers.org

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
houston@workers.org

**Huntington, W. Va.**  
huntingtonww@workers.org

**Los Angeles**  
5278 W Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
la@workers.org  
323.306.6240

**Milwaukee**  
milwaukee@workers.org  
**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
phila@workers.org

**Pittsburgh**  
pittsburgh@workers.org

**Rochester, N.Y.**  
585.436.6458  
rochester@workers.org

**Rockford, IL**  
rockford@workers.org

**San Diego**  
P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
sandiego@workers.org

**Tucson, Ariz.**  
tucson@workers.org

**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
dc@workers.org

# Stop the execution of Rodney Reed!

*Bulletin: On Feb. 23, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued a stay of execution for Rodney Reed in response to his attorneys' motion, pending a further court order.*

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

Jim Crow justice: These three words describe why Rodney Reed, an African-American man, has been on Texas' death row since 1998, facing a March 5 execution date. Reed was convicted of murdering Stacey Stites, a white woman with whom he had an intimate relationship in Bastrop, Texas.

Jim Crow justice encompasses the racism of police departments in Texas' small towns and the racism embedded in the psyches of the Bastrop residents who comprised Reed's all-white jury. It includes the racism that frightened potential witnesses who could have testified about Reed's whereabouts the night of the murder — if they had been called by defense attorneys — and that scared Reed's two Black court-appointed attorneys so much that they wouldn't stay overnight in Bastrop during the trial.

Reed's case is a troubling mixture of prosecutorial misconduct, police corruption, poor defense and institutional racism. New evidence of his innocence has surfaced as it is discovered. The Campaign to End the Death Penalty, based in Austin, Texas, states that the overwhelming need for a new trial is indisputable.

Since Reed's execution date was announced at a Bastrop hearing last November, activists have turned up the heat on Texas authorities. Protesters have demanded "Free Rodney Reed!" at parades honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, "Black Lives Matter" events, at the governor's inauguration, at Valentine's Day events and elsewhere.

On Feb. 21, Reed's supporters from Austin, San Antonio and Houston, and his family and friends from Bastrop rallied at the Texas Capitol and marched to and around the governor's mansion. Their spirited rally featured Reed's mother, Sandra Reed, and brother Rodrick Reed. The militant crowd chanted and cheered,



Above, Rodney Reed. Left, protesters demand justice for Reed at state Capitol.



while calling on Gov. Greg Abbott to stop the execution.

Other speakers were death row exonerate Shujaa Graham; Mark Clements, torture victim, imprisoned for 28 years in Illinois before being exonerated; Delia Perez Meyer, innocent Texas death row prisoner Louis Castro Perez's sister; and Lakiza Fowler, sister of Larry Jackson Jr., shot by Austin police in 2013. Also speaking were Ava Haywood, mother of James Haywood, who died in Elgin police custody in 2011; Brother Robert L. Muhammad, Austin Nation of Islam; Pastor Jim Rigby, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church; and Lady Bird, organizer of Black Lives Matter.

## Strong evidence supports call for new trial

On Feb. 12, Reed's attorneys filed a motion for a new trial and a stay of execution. The motion includes affidavits from two of Stites' former co-workers, corroborating Reed's personal relationship with Stites. Reed maintains they kept the interracial relationship private as it existed in a small Texas community and because she was engaged to Jimmy Fennell, a former police sergeant. The strong evidence supports the defense's theory that Stites was murdered by Fennell, who is now in prison for sexually assaulting a woman

while on the job.

Bruce Benjet, an Innocence Project attorney who has been representing Reed in his death penalty appeal, stated: "In addition to the recantation by the original medical examiner, we now have three of the nation's most respected medical examiners agreeing that Mr. Reed couldn't possibly have committed this crime as prosecutors claimed. Recent Texas law makes it clear that when there is new scientific evidence showing that the defendant is probably innocent, the conviction must be overturned, which is clearly the case here." (innocenceproject.org)

Reed was convicted on one piece of evidence: his DNA was found in a semen sample taken from Stacey's body at the crime scene. However, his trial lawyers didn't provide witnesses who could testify that Reed and Stites had a consensual relationship. No other evidence connected Reed to Stites or the crime scene.

In recent years, activists in Texas, as well as in Australia and Europe, have fought to publicize the inconsistencies and racism in Reed's case. The documentary "State vs. Reed: A Question of Justice on Texas' Death Row," won a South by Southwest Film Festival award in 2006. See YouTube (tinyurl.com/n4axggh).

TV channel A&E premiered a documentary, "Dead Man Talking," on Feb. 16. It showed scientific proof of Reed's innocence. Watch parties were held around Texas.

The Equal Justice Initiative report issued on Feb. 18, "Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror," documents nearly 4,000 lynchings of African Americans in 12 Southern states between the beginning of Reconstruction and World War II. (eji.org)

The authors assert that lynching reinforced a legacy of racial inequality that is apparent in today's U.S. criminal justice system. Mass incarceration, racially biased capital punishment, excessively harsh sentencing, police terror against people of color and their disproportionate sentencing reveal problems in U.S. society that were shaped by the terror era.

"Death penalty activists are aware that executions are nothing more than legal lynchings," said Joanne Gavin, of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement. "We have a broken system that cannot be fixed. We must shut it down and stop the executions."

See [Justice4RodneyReed.org](http://Justice4RodneyReed.org) and [We Demand Justice: Free Rodney Reed on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WeDemandJusticeFreeRodneyReed).

## State to investigate cop killing of Kevin Davis

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

Community pressure has helped win a demand made by the family of Kevin Davis. Davis was a popular restaurant worker who was shot by DeKalb County Police Officer Joseph Pitts on Dec. 29, after Davis himself had called 911 for help. Davis died in the hospital two days later.

Speaking to a crowd gathered in front of the county courthouse on Feb. 11, Delisa Davis, one of Davis' sisters, announced that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation

would be conducting an investigation into the shooting. The family was scheduled to meet with GBI officials on Feb. 13.

The crowd had marched two and a half miles from the scene of the shooting to the courthouse.

On Dec. 29, Davis had called 911 after his girlfriend was stabbed in the arm by a man who was temporarily staying at his apartment. Officer Pitts shot and killed Davis' three-legged dog as he entered the apartment. Hearing the shots and fearing the assailant had come back armed,

say witnesses, Davis grabbed his own gun. Pitts then fired at Davis as he came out of the bedroom where he had been tending to his girlfriend's injuries.

Witnesses say Pitts never identified himself as a police officer or ordered Davis to drop his weapon before firing at him.

Davis was taken to the hospital in handcuffs and charged with assaulting an officer. His family was denied permission to visit him before he died.

Additional information can be found on Facebook at [Justice for Kevin Davis](https://www.facebook.com/JusticeforKevinDavis).

## Celebrating a freedom fighter's release

Continued from page 2

Stewart, who was present at the event, and he mentioned that she had been a political prisoner, too. He also thanked his long-term supporters. "Don't forget those still behind the walls. They paid the price," he emphasized.

The "Welcome Home for Sekou Odinga" statement points out: "These are people who dedicate their lives to the transformation of this country, who put the benefit of their communities ahead of themselves, who believed that transformation was not only possible, but was worth dying for to end brutality, racism, economic discrimination, imperialism and war."

The program was hosted by Hakim Green and featured several speakers, including a Palestinian woman prisoner, spoken word and hip-hop performances, and two documentaries.

This event was organized by the Sekou Odinga Defense Committee, "Existence is Resistance" and the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home. For a list of performers and supporting organizations, see [sekouodinga.com](http://sekouodinga.com).

— Report and photo by Anne Pruden

## Stolen Lives rally focuses on Eric Garner

A "Stolen Lives" rally was held near the Brooklyn, N.Y., public housing where police victim Eric Garner of Staten Island once lived. A September 1994 victim of killer cops, Nicolas Heywood had lived in the same downtown Brooklyn public housing. The rally's organizers noted that New York Police Department cops had now killed 368 people since Heywood died. Among a large number of supporters of this Feb. 22 rally was Juanita Young, mother of a year 2000 victim of plainclothes cops' bullets in his family's Bronx home: young Malcolm Ferguson. Juanita

Young, who has disabilities, is still traveling to Harlem, Manhattan and Brooklyn rallies to demand justice. Called by the Oct. 22 Coalition for the Stolen Lives Project, the rally ended with the singing of "I Can't Breathe," the popular song inspired by the last words of Eric Garner as he was dying from suffocation



from an unwarranted police choke hold last summer.

— Report and photo by Anne Pruden

# Detroit youth: 'I stand with Boston bus drivers'

By Joe Mchahwar

Boston is hundreds of miles from Detroit, but the fight of Steelworkers Local 8751 to beat the union-buster Veolia Corp. matters to workers and youth here.

The school bus drivers' union was created in 1978, but their story really begins in 1974 with the struggle to desegregate Boston schools. When desegregation began, racists organized anti-integration protests drawing thousands. They infiltrated parent-teacher organizations to get the numbers out.

Anti-racists mobilized, weakening the racists. This led up to the 20,000-strong 1974 National March Against Racism. Some of the march organizers went on to form the union. When the racists saw their mass base diminished, they attacked buses full of children while police watched. You can imagine that one would have to be very courageous to be a school bus driver, especially as a person of color.

That legacy lives on today in the struggle-oriented social unionism of the school bus drivers, 98 percent of whom are people of color, with the majority Cape Verdean and Haitian.

The drivers struggle hard, not only for themselves but for the global working class. They have a long history in the anti-war movement, calling for an end to the Israeli occupation and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian

people. Their union was one of the first to have a rights clause for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people, and showed its solidarity with a float in last year's Pride march. Of course the union has united with the "Black Lives Matter" movement. The school bus drivers have fought against every form of division imposed on the working class. The union affords workers one of the highest standards of living among bus drivers in the U.S.

The union's will to struggle has put it in a life-or-death situation with one of the Earth's largest transnational corporations, Veolia.

Veolia is a beast with a thousand heads, created by an imperial decree of Napoleon III in 1853 to supply water to the French public. Its very inception was a historic act of privatization! Today, Veolia makes more profits off of water than any other corporation. Veolia handles waste management, energy and transportation — traditionally public-sector industries. Veolia is a hired gun used to privatize and bust unions. In the apartheid state of Israel, Veolia runs segregated buses.

Veolia's tentacles even stretch deep into the propaganda consumed by billions worldwide. It owns several of the biggest television channels and film studios around the globe. Universal Music Group is an appendage of Veolia that rakes in over 30 percent of the entire music industry profits globally. Until re-

cently, Veolia owned Activision Blizzard, one of the largest video game companies in the world, known for its very popular, ultra violent and racist war video games.

## Stop Veolia's attacks!

This is what the school bus drivers are up against. Since Veolia took over in 2013, the workers have been under ceaseless attack. Veolia agreed in writing to honor the union contract in place, but has flagrantly violated it at every turn. On Oct. 8, 2013, rank-and-file workers along with their leadership legally demanded meetings at bus yards about pressing issues. Veolia illegally locked them out. The company called this a wildcat strike, a lie parroted by the media.

Veolia suspended and in November fired four union leaders — Vice President Steve Gillis, Recording Secretary Andre Francois, Grievance Chair and union founder Steve Kirschbaum, and three-time former local president and steward, Garry Murchison. Since then, more union members have been unjustly fired.

At a demonstration on June 30 dubbed "Solidarity Day Three," workers gathered at a bus yard to demand contract justice and that the fired leaders be reinstated. The police asked them to leave, but workers quoted contract language allowing

such gatherings. In spite of this, Steve Kirschbaum was served with four felonies on July 4: assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, trespassing, breaking and entering and malicious destruction of property. These charges — two of which have been dropped — are wholly false, as dozens of witnesses will testify. In contrast, the prosecution has just two witnesses.

Kirschbaum's trial was scheduled for Feb. 2. A massive blizzard hit Boston that day, yet over 75 people came out in support. I was part of a solidarity delegation from Detroit with two other youth activists and a longtime UAW militant.

The struggle of the Boston school bus drivers and Detroit are linked, not only by racist national oppression but in the struggle against Veolia. Following some 30,000 water shutoffs, Veolia has become a consultant in the push to privatize the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. Like the courageous school bus drivers, we have to struggle to win.

Joe Mchahwar is a member of Detroit FIST and Workers World Party. This article was adapted from a talk he gave at a Feb. 21 public forum on the struggle legacy of Malcolm X. Mchahwar has been to Boston twice to help in the effort against Veolia. □

## Boston union under siege

Continued from page 1

its subservient corporate media mouthpiece, the ruling class laid bare its true agenda: To get rid of the "troublemakers" and the "reds." To behead the leadership of this militant, anti-racist, class-conscious union. To stop Local 8751 from setting an example of real social unionism. And to break the school bus drivers union once and for all.

The new mayor, Marty Walsh, has done nothing to defend the drivers, despite labor's backing of his election campaign. His attacks on the community, with whom the drivers have solidarized themselves for 40 years, include employing prisoners to shovel snow for 20 cents an hour, misusing school bus drivers to transport police officers during a Super Bowl celebration, trying to force all middle school students off school buses and onto public transit, and firing a city worker for participating in Black Lives Matter.

## 'Don't let red-baiting break you up'

The Globe's base appeal to anti-communism calls up the ghosts of Sen. Joseph McCarthy and Congressperson Martin Dies. Dies originally formed the House Un-American Activities Committee to break the back of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, whose drive to organize the vast industrial working class was in no small part led by members of the Communist Party and other leftists. The Dies Committee, started as a reaction to the wave of sit-down strikes that peaked in 1937, had a rough start, and in fact Dies, a Texas Dixiecrat, was defeated by the CIO's Political Action Committee, which was revived after the post-World War II strike wave. But then communists were driven from union leadership positions when they refused to sign "loyalty oaths" stating they were not members of the Communist Party.

The union-busting Taft-Hartley Act made it illegal for CP members to hold union office. By this time, the CIO leadership had embraced anti-communism. Eleven unions that refused to abide by this provision of Taft-Hartley were expelled from the CIO. Only two — the

United Electrical Workers Union and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union — still exist today.

Civil rights organizations that collaborated with the CIO in organizing drives among oppressed workers were driven out of existence during this period. Among them were the National Negro Congress, the Congress of Spanish-Speaking Peoples and the Committee for the Defense of the Foreign Born.

The red purge had a devastating and lasting effect on the U.S. labor movement. With the anti-capitalist forces driven from leadership, the movement lacked an anti-racist orientation as well. Thus, when A. Philip Randolph organized the 1963 March on Washington, best known for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech, only the Randolph Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the United Auto Workers supported the march from organized labor. The UAW, however, having cleansed itself of reds, was slow to bring Black workers into top leadership positions.

## Side with the school bus drivers

In these times, Local 8751 is a rarity, a seeming throwback to a bygone era. But the bosses fear this union. The bosses are treating it as such a threat because if this local union's example spreads, the capitalist class is in trouble.

Imagine all over the country, as in Boston, organized labor uniting with "Black Lives Matter," with the "Dreamers," with the best elements of "Occupy Wall Street," and with the communities in motion for justice. These actions make real the slogan, "Workers and oppressed peoples of all countries unite!" That is the embryo of social revolution.

In the song "Talkin' Union," the late Pete Seeger sang that "If you don't let red-baiting break you up / And if you don't let stoolpigeons break you up / And if you don't let vigilantes break you up / And if you don't let race hatred break you up / You'll win."

Harlan County 1931. Boston 2015. There are no neutrals there.

Which side are you on? □



### RE-HIRE the Four unjustly fired union leaders!

- Gary Murchison
- Steve Kirschbaum
- Andre Francois
- Steve Gillis

## BOSTON UNION Solidarizes with OIL STRIKERS

Team Solidarity, a rank-and-file organization of Boston school bus union workers, supports 100 percent the 5,000 brave oil workers — like our union, members of the United Steelworkers — now on strike for better pay, health coverage and safety conditions.

Royal Dutch Shell, Marathon, BP and other oil and refinery companies are attempting to use the worldwide drop in oil prices as an excuse to cry poverty and deny justice to the 30,000 workers covered by the contract.

Everyone knows that the companies involved are part of the richest industry in the world. In 2013, Shell's profit alone was \$16 billion.

This is an industry that can easily afford the just demands of the workers. But one only has to recall the disastrous BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010 to know that contract issues are only part of what the USW workers are fighting for.

When they stop working over onerous overtime; unsafe staffing levels; daily occurrences of fires, emissions, leaks and explosions; and the contracting out of work to less-experienced, non-unionized employees, they are striking for the environment and the lives, livelihoods and health of anyone who lives near an oil refinery or petrochemical plant. Not to mention both the steady erosion of wages and reduction of health coverage that affects every worker today.

The oil workers' strike is a frontline battle deserving the solidarity of every worker and every sector of society. Team Solidarity stands ready to assist in this heroic and important strike in any way we can. □

**WE SUPPORT THE STRIKING OIL WORKERS SOLIDARITY FOREVER**

**TEAM SOLIDARITY**  
BOSTON SCHOOL BUS UNION WORKERS  
TINY URL: KYO9HYS

# Struggle wins Walmart raises

By G. Dunkel

Walmart is the largest private employer in the United States, hiring around 1 percent of all U.S. workers. Its announcement that it will raise what it pays to 500,000 workers to at least \$9 an hour in April and \$10 an hour next year has had a major impact. And of course, the reaction on Wall Street was immediate: Walmart's stock price dropped by 3 percent.

The way big business media like the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times presented this move emphasized the business reasons why Walmart was investing a billion dollars in its employees. Its stores are messy, which means it's harder to find what you want to buy, and customer service is lousy. Two years ago, it reduced staff to a bare minimum, which means most stores much of the time don't have enough workers to do everything required.

Walmart is in a brick-and-mortar service business, the kind of enterprise not easy to outsource abroad, meaning that it tries to increase profits by increasing the exploitation of its workers. Walmart has been very aggressive in cutting

hours, demanding flexibility and lowering benefits.

Its workers have pushed back, becoming part of the low-wage workers' struggle for respect and for \$15 an hour, a 40-hour week and a fixed schedule.

For the past five years, OUR Walmart, an association of Walmart workers, has led protests at hundreds of Walmart stores. OUR Walmart has gotten the support of labor unions and other progressive groups. From time to time, groups other than OUR Walmart have also organized in support of Walmart workers.

## Struggle tactics keep pressure on bosses

These protests use all sorts of tactics, from marching and chanting through store aisles, putting up leaflets inside stores, setting up picket lines outside with marching bands, as well as chants and speeches. Occasionally, protesters have blocked the streets outside stores and taken arrests.

OUR Walmart's "Respect-the-Bump" campaign forced the company to change its pregnancy policy in early 2014. The campaign began in 2013 when a pregnant worker, a member of OUR Walmart

in Maryland, was forced onto disability after her doctor told her that strenuous work was dangerous for herself and her unborn child. The company would not agree to change her work load.

Using the Facebook pages of OUR Walmart, a national campaign involving petitions and letters was organized and in early April 2014, Walmart announced it was changing its policy.

In June of 2011, nearly 100 Walmart workers representing thousands of members of OUR Walmart went to the company's home office and presented a "Declaration of Respect" to Walmart executives.

It calls on Walmart to publicly commit to: "Listen to us, the Associates [what Walmart calls its workers]; have respect for the individual; recognize freedom of association and freedom of speech; fix the Open Door policy; pay a minimum of \$13/hour and make full-time jobs available for Associates who want them; create dependable, predictable work schedules; provide affordable health care; provide every Associate with a policy manual, ensure equal enforcement of policy and no discrimination, and give every Associate equal opportunity to succeed and advance



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

in his or her career; and provide wages and benefits that ensure that no Associate has to rely on government assistance."

Walmart faces not just "bad employee morale" and a tightening labor market with the unemployment rate falling, as it claims. It confronts an active and organized resistance, which of course it won't acknowledge. It has tried to bring labor law charges against the United Food and Commercial Workers for the support that that union gives to OUR Walmart.

A billion dollars sounds like a lot of money, but the financial consultant Demos estimates that if Walmart stopped buying back its stocks, it could afford to pay its workers a minimum of over \$15 an hour.

Walmart workers won a victory with the raises the company just announced, but they have much further to go. □

# Wisconsin workers mobilize to stop 'right-to-work' bill

By WW Milwaukee Bureau

Poor and working people throughout Wisconsin began mobilizing to defeat an anti-worker bill just after they heard right-wing Wisconsin state senators' Feb. 20 announcement that they would "fast track" a right-to-work (for-less) bill through the Senate. Many organizations called for a protest in Milwaukee on Feb. 23 and the Wisconsin AFL-CIO set protests for the state capital, Madison, on Feb. 24 and 25. ([facebook.com/defeatrighttowork](http://facebook.com/defeatrighttowork))

The senators' stated goal is to ram through the RTW bill with no public hearings and with a vote by affirmation by Feb. 25. The bill would still need to pass the Wisconsin State Assembly, which is also right-wing controlled. The right wing and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker aim to pass and sign the bill in two weeks.

Walker had said repeatedly during his latest gubernatorial campaign that RTW was not his focus. He lied. Immediately after the senators' announcements, Walker said he would sign the RTW bill. Like other right-wing legislative and gubernatorial attacks on the people during Walker's administration, ramming through the RTW bill is part of an organized, coordinated campaign. It's a class war paid for by the Bradley Foundation,

the Koch brothers, ALEC, the Mackinac Center, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the Greater Milwaukee Committee, Milwaukee 7 and other Wall Street and Pentagon interests, with the banks and bondholders taking the lead.

The RTW bill is just one in a series of vicious attacks on organized labor and communities throughout Wisconsin. With Act 10, Wall Street declared war in 2011, virtually eliminating collective bargaining for public sector workers and imposing wage cuts on state workers in the form of higher co-payments for state health insurance and pensions. Since then, austerity measures in Wisconsin have diminished or wiped out safety nets for the people, such as unemployment insurance; food stamps; protections for women, people of color, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people; and senior care.

This year's legislative session, which began in January, is a virtual scorched earth campaign against the working class and oppressed peoples in Wisconsin. Bills propose to dismantle and semiprivatize the University of Wisconsin system, strip world-renowned environmental policies and regulations, cut public education funding, implement drug testing for anyone receiving public benefits and more. Every sector of work-

ing-class Wisconsin is facing severe austerity with these bills — with people of color throughout the state but especially in Milwaukee to receive the worst effects if these bills are implemented.

## Classwide labor-community offensive

The labor, community and student organization — the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement — issued an appeal in December calling for a labor-community general strike to defeat the RTW legislation, based in part on the successful historical examples of general strikes in the United States in Minneapolis, San Francisco and Toledo in 1934; in Oakland in 1946; and the "11 Days of Action in Ontario" from 1995 to 1998. The appeal gives detailed examples of how to build for a general strike and includes a clause from the United Auto Workers constitution that "in states of great emergency" the president and a two-thirds vote of the International's executive board have the authority to call a general strike.

The WI BOPM appeal reads in part: "Unions are not a 'special interest' apart from our suffering communities and all workers — unorganized, retired, young, immigrant or unemployed. Along with uniting all the unions, we must bring in the many community groups

affected. Labor must make their problems our own. 'Social unionism' can take a big leap forward. While proceeding to authorize the general strike, unions and community groups should convene a huge assembly of the people in Wisconsin. Starting now, all union halls and resources should be available to fight RTW and to support community struggles, especially ones led by Black, Brown and poor white youth, most of whom are unemployed or low-wage workers."

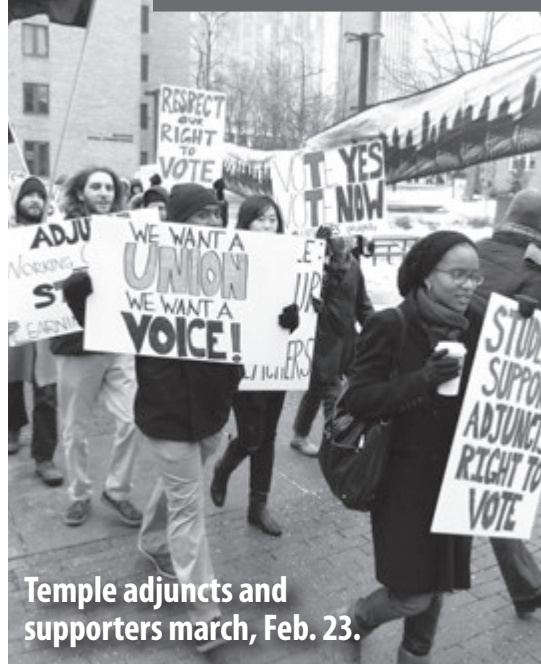
The appeal concludes:

"Community organizations, church leaders, people of color fighting back against police abuse, women, the LGBTQ community, the education community, foreclosure victims, the unemployed, low-wage workers, the Occupy Wall Street movement, immigrants and all others who are under attack by the international austerity assault must be brought together to prepare for the general strike. Demands must be shaped to make the largest majority of the people of the state understand that we are fighting for everyone. In a state where local and state politicians only represent the 1%, an assembly of the 99% should have commanding authority."

For updates and how to join the struggle to beat back RTW: [wisafclcio.typepad.com](http://wisafclcio.typepad.com) and [wibailoutpeople.org](http://wibailoutpeople.org)

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

## PHILADELPHIA



Temple adjuncts and supporters march, Feb. 23.

# Adjuncts march for union rights

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Temple University adjunct faculty, tenured and nontenured, as well as students marched for justice on Feb. 23 despite frigid weather.

Half of Temple's faculty are adjunct part-time professors, at-will employees (subject to firing at any time with no reason required) with only semester-long appointments, no affordable health care options and no job security. Their salaries average \$3,900 per class, while Temple tuition costs each student \$18,774 per year. The Temple Ad-

adjunct Organizing Committee wants to win the right to bargain over issues of job security, pay, class size, class cancellations, benefits and professional advancement.

Hundreds of the university's adjunct faculty petitioned the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board in December for the right to vote on joining the Temple Association of University Professionals union, which already represents 1,400 full-time faculty members.

In a Feb. 17 letter to the Temple News, the TAOC wrote, "Unfortunately, Temple administration is delaying the process because they don't respect us. Provost [Hai-Lung] Dai continues to send misleading and offensive emails to adjunct faculty discouraging us from unioniz-

ing. His actions show that he regards us as nothing more than cheap labor." A hearing before the PLRB is scheduled for March 19 in Harrisburg, Pa.

The Philadelphia protest kicked off many actions scheduled to take place all across the country during National Adjunct Action Week. That was called after the Feb. 25 National Adjunct Walkout Day was initiated last October.

Adjuncts made up 43 percent of U.S. college faculty in 1975, but that number has risen to about 70 percent today, according to the American Association of University Professors. Many part-time faculty earn less than \$30,000 a year, receive no health insurance and often teach at more than one school to get by. □

# BLACK LIVES MATTER ✎ STOP KILLER



**Demanding justice**

Feb. 23.

## for Yvette Henderson, protesters shut down Home Depot

By Terri Kay  
Oakland, Calif.

Two police officers in Emeryville, Calif., a town located between Oakland and Berkeley, gunned down and killed Yvette Henderson, a 38-year-old Black mother of two, in a parking lot on Feb. 3, over an alleged shoplifting incident in the Emeryville Home Depot store. Two weeks earlier and half a block away, when a white man named Sebastian Ledwick fired on police officers, the cops first retreated and then apprehended him without killing him.

That police reacted more violently against a Black woman cornered in a parking lot than against a white male firing deadly shots at them is itself proof of racial bias. Such racist injustice has provoked national demonstrations on a broad scale since last August. It is no surprise then that on Feb. 21, coinciding with the national commemoration of the assassination of Malcolm X, people shut down the Emeryville Home Depot for five hours.

Henderson had been identified by a Home Depot security guard for alleged shoplifting. After she left Home Depot, Henderson tried to flag down a passing bus. “We (saw) a woman running, holding her purse and waving her hand,” said Marilyn Tijerino, who was riding the AC Transit 31 line on her way home. “The girl did not have no gun. She was waving her hands.” (@B\_A\_Simons on Twitter)

Henderson was cornered by the Emeryville Police Department at the Extra Space Storage Facility garage in Oakland, a few blocks from the Home Depot. She was shot at seven times with the bullets coming from three weapons, including a military-grade, automatic AR-15 rifle, the same weapon used by the U.S. military in wartime.

Police originally claimed that officers were “advised” that the suspect was armed with a gun. Issued at the time with authority, this statement has since been edited out of original media reports. Now, the police claim they asked Henderson to drop her weapon and when she refused, they shot and killed her. Police have never stated that Henderson pointed a gun at them. Henderson fired no shots.

Michelle Shepard and Warren Williams are the officers responsible for Henderson’s death. Both have been placed on paid leave during the investigation. Williams was wearing a body camera which was turned off during the shooting.

Some 200 people attended the Feb. 21 rally at the Emeryville Police Station, organized by the Anti-Police-Terror Project. Henderson’s brother spoke for her at the rally. People from families of other victims of police killings spoke as well. Cadine Williams spoke about her brother, O’Shane Evans, killed by the San Francisco Police Department last Oct. 7. La Meshia Irizarry spoke about her son, Idriss Stelley, killed in 2001 by the SFPD.

### March and lockdown

The protesters marched two miles from the police station to the Home Depot store, where they joined the Black Out Collective and Black Lives Matter-Bay Area. These groups, in coordinated action, had locked down the three front doors of the store with their bodies, along with activists from Asians for Black Lives and the Bay Area Solidarity Action Team. The entire front entrance to the store was also blocked off by the protesters with yellow tape lettered, “Crime Scene” in black. They erected a siege tower, at the top of which Cat Brooks of ONYX sat during the entire five-hour siege.

Three Anti-Police-Terror Project demands decorated the tower: “Release the video tapes” (by Home Depot, the EPD and the OPD), “leave without pay for the officers involved while they are being investigated and ultimately their termination from the EPD” and “the immediate return or destruction of all military styled weapons and accessories by the OPD and the EPD.”

Two other families of victims of police killings joined the crowd at the Home Depot and spoke about their loved ones. Cyndi Mitchell spoke about her brother, Mario Romero, who was killed by the Vallejo police, and Dionne Smith spoke about her son, James Rivera Jr., killed by the Stockton police. About 400 people participated in the event during the rally, march and Home Depot shutdown. □

WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

## March condemns killing of immigrant worker by cops

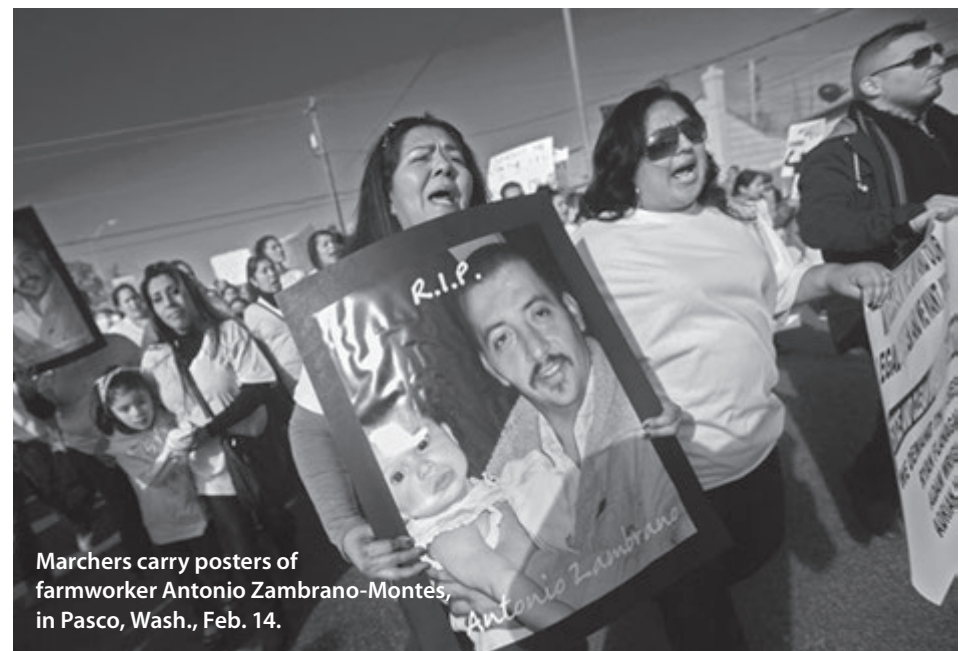
By Jim McMahan  
Pasco, Wash.

Within days after farmworker Antonio Zambrano-Montes was killed by Pasco police, his murder was seen by over 1.6 million people on a YouTube video. Viewers saw an unarmed man, his hands raised in the air much like Michael Brown’s hands last summer in Ferguson, Mo., and three Pasco cops gunning him down in a hail of bullets.

There have been many community protests since that Feb. 10 day. More than 1,000 people marched in Pasco on Feb. 14, calling for justice for Zambrano-Montes. On Feb. 18, separate solidarity protests were held in Portland, Ore., and in Seattle, where demonstrators marched and blocked traffic throughout the downtown area. These two major cities are each a little more than 200 miles from Pasco, which is located in the southeastern part of Washington state.

Here in Pasco on Feb. 21, demonstrators took over the huge cable bridge crossing the Columbia River after marching through central Pasco for two hours chanting, “We are all Antonio!” and “Justice now!” There were farmworkers, many carrying the flag of the United Farm Workers Union. The mainly Latino/a marchers rallied on both sides of the Franklin County Hall in Pasco. Then the march went to the cable bridge, which demonstrators blocked for over an hour by moving slowly. Cars honked in support throughout the day.

Zambrano-Montes’ house had burned down two weeks before he was murdered, traumatizing the person who was to become another victim of police violence. The government could have provided him with housing. But instead, the state murdered him with 13 bullets. His plight represents that of all immigrant workers who are cheated for their labor and then met with the greatest hostility by a racist government acting lawlessly. □



Marchers carry posters of farmworker Antonio Zambrano-Montes, in Pasco, Wash., Feb. 14.

## Justice for Tamir Rice and Tanisha Anderson



**CLEVELAND**

Vigil for Tamir Rice, Feb. 22.

By Susan Schnur  
Cleveland

It has been over three months since Cleveland police brutally murdered two people in one month — 12-year old Tamir Rice and before him Tanisha Anderson.

Courtney Drain, an activist in the fight against police violence, was arrested on Feb. 9 at a Cleveland City Council meeting for holding up a sign calling for justice for

Tanisha Anderson. Anderson was killed by Cleveland police on Nov. 20 after her family made a 911 emergency call for help getting their daughter to the hospital. Instead police held her down on the ground, suffocating her.

The people scored a huge victory on Feb. 23, when Drain had his ticket for disorderly conduct thrown out in Cleveland court. He received no fine for court costs. The judge asked how it could be disorder-

ly conduct when there is no law against holding up a sign at Council meetings.

On Feb. 21, Sabrina Fulton, mother of murdered teen Trayvon Martin, spoke to an overflow crowd at the Cleveland Public Library. Fulton had spent the morning with Samaria Rice, mother of Tamir Rice. When the two women entered the hall, everyone leapt to their feet to applaud the women for their incredible courage. Fulton encouraged everyone to stay active and never stop fighting for justice.

Feb. 22 was the three-month anniversary of the murder of Tamir Rice outside a Cleveland recreation center. Despite the fact that this horrific crime was caught on camera, the guilty police are still working and collecting their paychecks.

Ignoring the driving snow and falling temperatures, more than 150 people participated in the outdoor vigil, called by Cleveland’s “Candlelight Vigil for Tamir.” Samaria Rice spoke to everyone and told the crowd about Tamir, her youngest son. Over 10 police squad cars observed the peaceful protest, meaning they were not patrolling Cleveland’s roads, which were littered with accidents due to the whiteout lack of visibility and icy conditions. Even with people trapped in cold cars with possible injuries, cops give priority to repression. □

PHOTO: LATONYA GOLDSBY

# COPS ≠ LIBERATION ≠ NOT RACISM

## MALCOLM X AND BLACK LIVES MATTER

By Monica Moorehead

The 50th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X was commemorated in many cities throughout the U.S. on the weekend of Feb. 21-22, with events that included street actions against police terror, speak-outs, forums, vigils and more.

A common thread running through many activities was the use of Malcolm's legacy to forward the current fight against all forms of imperialism, especially racism and national oppression, in the form of the Black Lives Matter movement — by any means necessary. Workers World Party held forums and participated in numerous events with other progressive forces to honor this great anti-racist, anti-imperialist leader. Several activities are described below.

The **Baltimore** chapter of WWP and Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) youth group held a special joint forum to honor Malcolm X on Feb. 22. Despite a major snowstorm, the Baltimore Solidarity Center meeting space was packed. All seats were filled by a diverse crowd of mostly young activists of all nationalities.

The event featured Larry Holmes, first secretary of WWP, who spoke on the legacy of Malcolm X and what it means for the Black Lives Matter movement.

The program and discussion lasted more than three hours because of the number of lively questions and comments. The majority of participants came from the Black Lives Matter movement.

It was standing room only at the Malcolm X tribute hosted by **Detroit** WWP and FIST on Feb. 21. Chaired by Tachae Davis, a member of both groups, the program included a video of an interview with Malcolm X as well as talks and a delicious soul food dinner.

Marcina Cole spoke on the struggle to free political prisoner Rev. Edward Pinkney of Benton Harbor, Mich., who is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 27. Pinkney was convicted on charges of allegedly forging dates on petitions to oust the city's mayor.

Joe Mchahwar of FIST and WWP presented the militant, anti-racist history of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, and told



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Ramiro Fúnez, Jane Ledesma of Cop Watch, Monica Moorehead, Colin Ashley, Larry Holmes, Alexia Filpo and Simone Gamble, New York, Feb. 21.

of the Veolia corporation's campaign to bust the union and criminalize its leaders.

Davis spoke about Assata Shakur, Black Panther Party member and political exile, who escaped from prison in 1979 and took refuge in revolutionary Cuba. Debbie Johnson of WWP exposed the role of the corporate media in perpetuating racist lies and urged the audience to read Workers World newspaper for revolutionary and working-class truth. After the meeting, copies were quickly grabbed up.

### 'Revolutionary Voice of Struggle and Liberation'

Abayomi Azikiwe, a leader of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and Detroit WWP, as well as editor of the Pan-African News Wire and WW contributing editor, gave the main presentation on the struggle legacy of Malcolm X. His powerful and informative talk, entitled "Malcolm X: Revolutionary Voice of Struggle and Liberation," was published by Modern Ghana and can be read at [tinyurl.com/qevsm8l](http://tinyurl.com/qevsm8l).

The **New York City** branch of WWP held "A Tribute to Malcolm X" forum at the Solidarity Center on Feb. 21. Despite a winter storm, a standing-room-only crowd participated in a more than two-hour dialogue on how the contributions made by Malcolm X impact the Black Lives Matter movement today.

Opening remarks were made by Alexia Filpo and Colin Ashley from the Peoples

Power Assembly; Simone Gamble from Brooklyn's East Flatbush Cop Watch; Ramiro Fúnez from FIST and Larry Holmes from WWP. Three videos featuring Malcolm X were played.

"A walk in his footsteps in Harlem," organized by the PPA and Occu-Evolve, took place earlier that day. It started where Malcolm X once held street meetings at 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard, followed by a walk to the police precinct where he organized a protest against police brutality in 1957.

The **Buffalo, N.Y.**, Anti Racism Coalition hosted an event Feb. 22 to honor all young Black lives stolen by state violence, with speakers, poetry, music and a reading of Malcolm X's words.

The **Los Angeles** WWP branch organized a Feb. 21 film showing of Spike Lee's 1992 feature film, "Malcolm X," starring Denzel Washington. After the movie, a political discussion was held on how Pan-Africanism, international solidarity, the right of Black people to self-defense and other concepts popularized by Malcolm X apply to today's movement against state violence and for Black Liberation.

The **Durham, N.C.**, branch of WWP held a "Malcolm X: Black Liberation and Black Lives Matter" forum on Feb. 21 at the Hayti Heritage Center. Featured speakers included Manzoor Cheema from Muslims for Social Justice and Larry Hales from



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

Abayomi Azikiwe, Detroit, Feb. 21.

WWP and PPA. The meeting explored the movement that Malcolm came to inspire and represent, his thoughts, political practice and militancy.

Other Malcolm X/Black History Month WWP forums are scheduled for **Philadelphia** on Feb. 24 and **Boston** on Feb. 28.

Contributors to this article include Sharon Black, Ellie Dorritie, Kris Hamel, Andy Katz and John Parker.

### Philadelphia

## 'Who killed Brandon Tate-Brown?'

Marchers demand justice for victim of police killing, Feb. 21.

assassination of Malcolm X.

The protesters, who included Tate-Brown's family members and friends, gathered at 6600 Frankford Ave., the site where the 26-year-old African American was killed by police on Dec. 15. They were joined by activists from around the city who drove to the rally in a caravan of 20 cars decorated with signs with the same demand for the names of Tate-Brown's killers.

Tate-Brown was shot in the back of the head after being stopped by two police officers for allegedly driving without his headlights on in the early morning hours. For the past two months, his mother, Tanaya Brown-Dickerson, has been working with area anti-police brutality activists, including the Philadelphia Coalition for Racial, Economic and Legal Justice. They are demanding that police release the

officers' names and video footage of the shooting, which was obtained from merchants in the area.

Several days before the protest, police acknowledged that the two officers involved had been cleared by police investigators and returned to street duty weeks ago. This announcement came less than a week after Deputy Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel, speaking at a gathering on community and police relations, publicly told Brown-Dickerson that the case was still under investigation.

Police allege that they asked Tate-Brown to get out of his car after they saw a hand gun visible on the car's console. They also claim he was headed to the passenger side of his car when they shot him.

However, a video of the scene obtained by Brian Miltenberg, a lawyer for Tate-Brown's family, counters the police version. It shows that Brandon Tate-Brown — after initially running away from po-

lice but not toward his car — was standing unarmed and behind the car when police shot him. The video also shows that the car's headlights were on.

As demonstrators chanted "No justice, no peace, no racist police!" while marching toward the District headquarters, police tried to block their access. Undeterred, protesters marched around the cop cars blocking the street.

For more than an hour they rallied and confronted a squadron of police lined up in front of the station. Speakers included Del Matthews, whose son Frank McQueen was killed by police in June 2014. Some of the most poignant remarks were given by Tate-Brown's younger sister, a former coworker and a friend who promised to keep marching until "we get justice for Brandon Tate-Brown."

Everyone protesting on the streets on that cold winter day asserted, "We demand justice by any means necessary!" □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

Despite cold winds and an icy snow storm, more than 100 demonstrators marched on the Philadelphia Police Department's 2nd and 15th District headquarters in the city's Mayfair section on Feb. 21. They demanded to know "Who killed Brandon Tate-Brown?" The event also marked the 50th anniversary of the

# Black Women's Lives Matter

By Danielle Boachie

The following article, slightly edited, is reprinted here courtesy of Red Flag, the publication of the militant youth group FIST — Fight Imperialism, Stand Together.

On Feb. 26, 2012, unarmed Black teen Trayvon Martin was murdered by a neighborhood vigilante. On July 17, 2014, the murder of unarmed Eric Garner by the New York City Police Department was videotaped, with his last words being “I can’t breathe.” Yet on Dec. 2, the grand jury decided to only indict the man who filmed the murder. On Nov. 24, Officer Darren Wilson was not charged with the fatal shooting of the unarmed Black teen, Michael Brown, back in August. On Nov. 22, 12-year-old Tamir Rice was murdered by Cleveland police for playing with a toy gun. The officer has yet to be charged.

It is no surprise that a country built on the genocide and enslavement of Black and Brown bodies does not indict white officers for the systematic lynching of Black men. Even though communities of color repeatedly experience violence from the white supremacist system, retaliation to state violence with violence is not accepted. To believe in the fallacy of nonviolence as an effective response is to make the horrifically incorrect assumption that the playing field is equal, and that we can simply negotiate our way through this injustice.

No matter how many times I wish it were true, the fact exists: Black lives do not matter in this white supremacist, capitalist society. The social role of the police is to maintain the status quo; contemporary “law enforcement” evolved from the institution of the capture, containment



Danielle Boachie

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

and policing of chattel slaves. Through the decades of work done by the Abolitionist and Civil Rights movements, the Black community has gained access to certain rights and privileges not previously afforded it, but the recognition of our humanity has only rearranged the type of systematic, barbaric violence we receive from our oppressors, the capitalist system of the United States.

Certain bodies are fundamentally ineligible for personhood, for personhood is not defined by our status as living beings but through our relationship to the racist West. The dominant narrative in our society perpetuates the anti-Black perception of young Black men as innately violent. The racist and inaccurate correlation between the color of his skin and the supposed threat perceived by white officers must be acknowledged if we want to begin to understand why our people are disproportionately murdered.

The country’s increasingly militarized police force is conditioned to see Black men as criminals so as to justify the lynchings. Michael Brown was Black, therefore

he was not white. Black bodies are sites of criminalization, for even unarmed, he was perceived as a threat. Even after his death, Brown was not given justice, for the system was never meant to include him.

## Stop ‘invisibilizing’ Black women!

Amidst this sadness, it is crucial not to forget the violence experienced by Black women. As we have seen, dominant discourses often neglect the intersectionality of oppression, and both whites and men are guilty of reshaping the voice and presence of Black women, or ignoring our existence in its entirety. In this case, Black women do not fit the normative narrative of bodies impacted by police brutality, despite the many Black women who have died at the hands of the system.

The burden of Black liberation does not rest solely on the experiences of Black men, and should include the experiences of Black women. Yet, discussions of power are constructed to embody cisgender masculinity, leaving the violence inflicted on Black female bodies a peripheral concern. The dismissal, erasure and anecdotal nature of discussions of Black women are a systematic problem.

We witness the same brutal, perpetual, white supremacist violence and “invisibilizing” of our existence, yet lack of inclusion of Black women devalues our lives.

Let us remember:

**Tarika Wilson**, 26 (Ohio, 2008) — killed by police while holding her 1-year-old child.

**Aiyana Jones**, 7 (Michigan, 2010) — murdered by police while asleep in her home.



**Miriam Carey**, 34 (Washington, D.C., 2013) — unarmed and murdered by police.

**Shereese Francis**, 30 (New York, 2012) — suffocated by police holding her face down on a mattress. She suffered from schizophrenia.

**Shantel Davis**, 23 (New York, 2012) — unarmed yet shot in the chest by police. Her alleged last words were “I don’t want to be killed, don’t kill me!”

**Sharmel Edwards**, 49 (Nevada, 2012) — unarmed with her hands up, five police officers shot her with at least 15 bullets.

**Rekia Boyd**, 22 (Illinois, 2012) — shot and killed instantly by off-duty officer Dante Servin while hanging out with friends in a park.

**Tyisha Miller**, 22 (California, 1998) — hit with at least 12 bullets when officers opened fire 23 times.

**Yvette Smith**, 47 (Texas, 2014) — single mother shot by police. Though they claimed she had a weapon, nothing was found at the scene, and the officers were punished for altering their story to reflect this fact.

This list is by no means extensive, but it serves as a horrific reminder that we, Black women, are not immune to this violence. □

# Lorraine Hansberry: Political activist, artist

By Abayomi Azikiwe

It is 50 years since Lorraine Hansberry, a renowned playwright and political activist on the left, died on Jan. 12, 1965. Only 34, she had led a full life and intervened in many of the significant developments in the African-American liberation movement of the 1960s.

Hansberry was born in Chicago during the Great Depression. Her father, Carl Hansberry, played a pivotal role there in the struggle to end restrictive housing covenants. After he purchased a home in a previously all-white neighborhood, a group of white residents organized mobs and legal challenges to block the sale, citing restrictive covenants that prohibited the sale of houses to African Americans, Jews and others.

In 1866, right after the Civil War, Congress had passed the Civil Rights Act, which ostensibly provided citizenship rights to African people as well as provisions to guard against discrimination in housing. But the law was largely ignored for decades.

Carl Hansberry filed a lawsuit against the practice, winning a favorable ruling in 1940 from the U.S. Supreme Court. The Hansberry v. Lee decision constituted the beginning of the end of restrictive covenants.

## Hansberry's work on the left

During the late 1940s, Lorraine Hansberry attended the University of Wisconsin and joined the Young Progressives of America (YPA) and the Labor Youth League (LYL). These organizations were committed to ending the Cold War, work-

ing for world peace and racial equality.

Hansberry also developed an interest in African affairs. She later studied African culture and history with W.E.B. DuBois at the Jefferson School for Social Sciences in New York. She wrote a paper for the DuBois course on the Belgian Congo, illustrating her burgeoning consciousness related to African affairs and anti-colonialism.

All three of these organizations — the YPA, LYL and the Jefferson School — had been established by the Communist Party and had close links to its mass activities.

While taking a class at the Jefferson School, she met legendary artist, actor, social scientist and activist Paul Robeson. During the early 1950s, Hansberry joined the staff of Freedom newspaper, another CP-oriented initiative based in Harlem and headed by Robeson. She began work at the paper as a subscription clerk, receptionist, typist and editorial assistant, and was quickly promoted to associate editor.

According to the website of Columbia University’s Social Justice Movement, Hansberry was “regularly in contact with Robeson and DuBois and used the opportunity to expand her understanding of race, politics, and culture. She authored several articles for Freedom. Within its pages she celebrated victories of newly independent nations against their former European colonizers, explored the origins of American political economy,



delineated the expression of the American political economy in its maintenance of racially-based ghettos, dealt with cultural structures and institutions that preserved racism, and defended colleagues under ideological attack from the FBI and anti-communist Senator Joe McCarthy.”

In 1953, Hansberry met Jewish songwriter and activist Robert Nemeroff on a picket line in New York City. The two were married. They divorced in 1962 but continued to work together.

Freedom newspaper, like other progressive and left institutions, came under attack during the Cold War and was eventually forced out of existence.

## Hansberry makes mark on Broadway

Hansberry entered the literary and theater scene with pioneering achievements in the late 1950s. Her play “A Raisin in the Sun” took Broadway by storm in 1959, being the first production authored by an African-American woman. The play was later made into a film starring Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee.

The play told of the struggle of an African-American, working-class family to advance their social status. The multigenerational family debates what to do with an inheritance. A decision is made to divide the money between purchasing a home in an all-white neighborhood, the mother’s preference, and acquiring a liquor license by the son, played by Sidney Poitier. The son is swindled by his part-

ners, but the family moves into the white neighborhood.

“Raisin” won the New York Critics’ Circle Award. The film earned similar recognition at the Cannes Film Festival. In addition to this successful play, Hansberry wrote extensively on issues of race, gender and sexuality.

As early as 1957, she joined the Daughters of Bilitis, a lesbian organization, and contributed letters to their magazine, The Ladder, about feminism and homophobia.

## Escalation of activism and militancy

After 1963, Hansberry moved further to the left, joining the Civil Rights Movement. In 1963, she participated in a meeting with then U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy and questioned the administration’s commitment to racial equality.

At a public meeting in New York on June 15, 1964, she called for encouraging “the white liberal to stop being a liberal and become an American radical,” adding that “some of the first people who have died so far in this struggle have been white men.”

Hansberry tragically died of pancreatic cancer in early 1965. Her works during this period, later consolidated into other productions by her former spouse, included “Les Blancs” (1970) and “To Be Young, Gifted and Black” (1968-69).

Hansberry made a significant contribution to the artistic and political expression of the African-American people in the struggle against national oppression and economic exploitation. Her writings and social activism will inevitably be studied by generations to come. □



# Which way forward for the struggle?

## Syriza backs down to euro bankers

By Fred Goldstein

Feb. 24 — The leftist Syriza government in Greece has accepted a negotiated retreat from its election promises after a faceoff with the European bankers, led by German finance capital. This ends the latest phase of the struggle of the Greek people against austerity. But this struggle, while it may be paused, must not be allowed to die.

What has ended is the idea of getting out of debt slavery to the predatory bankers of Europe through negotiations, without breaking with the euro currency zone altogether.

The phase of conciliation — of trying to placate the financial powers in Berlin, Paris, Rome, Madrid and Amsterdam through negotiations and appeals to reason in order to get their consent to lift the chains of debt slavery imposed on the Greek masses — has proven illusory. While the negotiations may go on for a while, this strategy can never be taken seriously again by the Greek population.

After two weeks of negotiating with 18 hostile governments and finance ministers, the newly elected government headed by Alexis Tsipras reversed its fundamental positions. It had earlier pledged to break with the austerity regime imposed on Greece by the Troika — the International Monetary Fund, European Central Bank and European Commission. Previous regimes agreed to these onerous conditions in return for bailout loans to Athens.

With money flowing out of Greek banks at a rate of 2 billion euro a week and the ECB choking off all credit, the new government was rapidly running out of money. The German bankers were squeezing Syriza so hard that it faced a choice of financial collapse or political humiliation — if it agreed to remain in the eurozone.

In the settlement now cautiously and conditionally agreed to by the European finance ministers, the Syriza government has agreed to live within the basic guidelines of austerity established by and supervised by the Troika, renamed in a face-saving measure as the “institutions.” The IMF and the ECB are already expressing concerns about the agreement.

The Greek government will now be eligible for a 7-billion-euro loan that was scheduled to be paid on Feb. 28. However, the ECB and EC have said the money will not be paid until the concessions outlined by Syriza are implemented. As of this writing, it has not been specified how the government will avoid imminent default, but presumably this has been worked out.

### Syriza given some latitude

Syriza retained some latitude to allow the Greek government to shape the terms of its austerity program, subject at all times to the auditing and approval of the “institutions.” Syriza emphasized in the agreement that it would seek unpaid taxes from the rich, deal with corporate fraud and take other measures to raise revenue that would not negatively impact the masses.

There is so much corruption in capi-

talist society that Syriza may be able to squeeze billions out of the Greek ruling class and the bureaucracy in order to hand a good chunk of money to the euro bankers.

Syriza has written into the agreement the right to increased government spending and distribution of aid to the poor through (slowly) raising the minimum wage, raising pensions, providing health care and other possible measures to immediately ease the economic crisis for sections of the population. But all this must be approved by the Troika.

So all the original pledges of Syriza — not to deal with the Troika, to demand a sharp debt reduction, to refuse the bailout and to reverse the harsh austerity measures imposed on the Greek people — have been abandoned in the face of extreme financial extortion by the euro bankers.

While there is no justification for this retreat, it should be noted it was made under extreme duress. Syriza was in office for only one month and did not have time to get a grip on the government or its finances, let alone prepare for the economic aggression following a break-up of negotiations. Most of the month was consumed in arguing with the bankers. Thus Syriza was not prepared to fend off economic strangulation threatened by Berlin.

### Great shift toward Syriza followed election

This latest agreement with the “institutions” is unstable. It could be upset by either a rebellion among the Greek masses or even harsher intervention by the bankers, or both.

But at the moment there is a temporary break in the struggle. And it is necessary to assess what happened in order to go forward. There are many aspects of the struggle to review.

First of all, what was the meaning of the Syriza victory and, more importantly, what was the meaning of the surge in Syriza’s popularity after it made bold pledges to defy and turn back austerity, which catapulted Syriza into office a month ago with 36 percent of the vote?

After it won and continued to make its declarations, its popularity went up to 75 to 80 percent! The people who moved over to Syriza after the vote were mainly followers of the center-right New Democratic Party. Thus, the broad masses, despite their identification with the big capitalist parties, came out in support of Syriza’s struggle against austerity once they saw it was not just a promise but concrete measures were being laid out.

Marxists should know that such a vast and sudden shift in the political orientation of the broad population indicated the Greek masses were reaching the point where they could not go on in the old way and were willing to shift their allegiance to a party they thought could relieve their suffering. The fact that the people were mistaken about Syriza should not cause other left forces to ignore this dramatic signal. On the contrary, they should take advantage of it.

## To merely denounce Syriza and stand back ... amounts to a rationalization for not giving this struggle revolutionary critical support.

Among the lessons of the struggle is that parliamentary victory alone cannot be sustained without the mass struggle on the ground, and that it will be necessary to escalate the class struggle to push back austerity.

The context for the political shift to Syriza is the fact that Greece is now living in the equivalent of the Great Depression. Production has plunged 25 percent in five years. Unemployment is officially 25 percent; youth unemployment is officially over 50 percent.

Almost half the population is living at or under the poverty line. People have been foraging for food and firewood in the forests, going through garbage dumps and eating in bread lines. They are living without health care, social services, electricity, transportation and so on. Under these conditions, the Syriza campaign against austerity brought about a massive surge forward.

### Use ‘breathing space’ to prepare for struggle

Right now there is a four-month “breathing space” before the next battle begins with the European bankers over austerity. That is when the present loan agreement runs out. That breathing space should be used to prepare for the next phase of the struggle — if the struggle doesn’t start before then.

The German and other European bankers have no intention of letting Syriza give the Greek people any fundamental relief in the overall austerity conditions. These bankers aim to squeeze every euro possible out of the hides of the Greek masses. The conditions of hardship will continue and the population’s discontent will deepen.

### Not enough to merely denounce Syriza

To merely denounce Syriza and stand back while saying the struggle is lost would be negligent. In this regard, it is important to analyze the positions taken, especially by Marxist organizations that have denounced Syriza for not fighting for socialism and for confining the struggle to capitalism.

This amounts to a rationalization for not giving this struggle revolutionary critical support because it is being led by Syriza. The struggle between capitalism and socialism has never been the axis of the current struggle. The central focus of the struggle is against Troika-imposed capitalist austerity.

It is ridiculous for leftists to charge Syriza with not fighting for socialism and use this as an excuse to walk away from the struggle. The Tsipras leadership was never going to fight for socialism. Their leadership is Eurocommunist in origin. Eurocommunism, which turned its back on the socialist camp and the Soviet Union, abandoned the class struggle altogether as a form of struggle. Everyone on the Marxist left could anticipate that the Syriza leadership would stay within the bounds of capitalism.

The question, certainly as far as the masses were concerned and objectively, was how to push back the bankers and relieve the horrendous conditions of

debt slavery imposed on the Greek people. This should have been a signal for Marxists to plunge wholeheartedly into the struggle, to make the demand to get out of the eurozone, while patiently and persistently explaining to the masses that the correct road is to get out of the heartless grip of European finance capital and to fight capitalism as the only road to end austerity.

Any party that brought such a message to the struggle would have been truly vindicated by the present turn of events and could have increased its influence and the influence of revolutionary thought in Greece today. To do that would have been to follow the Leninist tactic of giving revolutionary critical support to a struggle being waged by political opponents, no matter how reprehensible they may be, while retaining an independent revolutionary program.

If the masses are enthusiastically following the social democrats out of lack of knowledge, then revolutionaries have to find a way to get a hearing and bring that knowledge to them. To do that, Marxists must be in the struggle against austerity, side by side with the masses. That is how to link the fight against austerity with the struggle against capitalism and for socialism.

By staying away, the left allows the Syriza leadership to have a monopoly on the political line. This is to surrender the political struggle to social democracy. But the goal is to win the masses away from the social democrats.

While Marxists bring their full program to the struggle against austerity, it is erroneous to make it a condition that reformists make the same links. It is precisely because they are reformists that they won’t make those links.

When an immediate grievance, such as austerity, is facing the masses, and opponents are leading the struggle against austerity, it is erroneous for socialists to demand those opponents fight for socialism as a condition to enter into a bloc with them against the immediate grievance. That discredits socialism.

### Hammers and sickles needed on streets

Hopefully, in the next phase of the struggle the euro bankers will see an escalation of the mass struggle, with hammers and sickles on the streets among the popular masses in a continued fight to roll back austerity. The threat of an anti-capitalist struggle could become a factor that causes the euro bankers to pause in their campaign of economic aggression.

If it is possible to rally the masses to force a break with the eurozone, then the government will have to be prepared to take strong measures, such as nationalizing the banks and big firms and instituting controls to keep wages flowing, prices down and prevent hoarding. Thought must be given to international commercial relations and all other measures that will have to be taken if Greece breaks with the eurozone in the next round of struggle.

This can be started within the framework of capitalism but can be a bridge to the socialist revolution. □

## Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

Available online and at other booksellers.

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to [www.LowWageCapitalism.com](http://www.LowWageCapitalism.com)



## WORKERS WORLD editorial

# Protest war criminal Netanyahu

He won't be the first war criminal to speak before the U.S. Congress. Remember that George W. Bush delivered eight State of the Union messages, most of them after he lied his way into a criminal war that killed 1 million Iraqis.

No, what distinguishes current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's invitation to address Congress on March 3 is that every possible outcome for it — unless it boomerangs — is reactionary and aimed at pushing a new U.S. war against Iran.

Netanyahu — whose hands are still dripping with the blood of Palestinian children, victims of the bombing of Gaza he ordered last summer — appears to have two goals.

One goal is the narrow one of helping himself win the upcoming national elections in the Zionist settler-state, a goal unworthy of discussion.

The other goal is to disrupt the years-long negotiations between the Barack Obama administration and the government of Iran regarding Iran's program to develop nuclear power.

Netanyahu has urged the U.S. to take

military action against Tehran instead of reaching an accommodation. In this he has the support of the the Democratic Party's cold warriors and most Republicans, who also say they prefer bombing to negotiating. Republican House Speaker John Boehner invited Netanyahu without clearing it with the White House, making the invitation part of the Republican confrontation with the president. In turn, top administration officials are refusing to meet with Netanyahu.

Workers and oppressed peoples in the United States have every interest in preventing a war against Iran. They have every interest in opposing the crimes of Netanyahu and the Israeli state against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples. They have every interest in confronting those in the U.S. who push for war, no matter which of the two big, pro-imperialist parties they belong to.

Workers World urges its readers to join the demonstrations planned against U.S.-backed, Israeli war criminal Netanyahu.

See International Action Center at [tinyurl.com/od83mhv/](http://tinyurl.com/od83mhv/). □

# A defeat for fascist forces in Ukraine

By Greg Butterfield

The independent people's republics of Novorossiia celebrated an historic victory of the anti-fascist people's militias over U.S.-backed Ukrainian military forces near the railroad hub town of Debaltsevo on the shared border of Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbass region.

Thousands poured into Donetsk city's central square on Feb. 23 under the statue of Soviet leader V.I. Lenin to mark their second decisive military victory over Ukraine's vastly larger, better equipped forces in less than a year.

At the same time, Donetsk Prime Minister Aleksandr Zakharchenko cautioned that the Kiev junta of oligarchs, neoliberal politicians and fascists was marshalling for a new offensive, perhaps as soon as late March. (RIA, Feb. 23)

Democrats and Republicans in Washington continue pushing to send \$3.5 million in heavy weaponry to continue Kiev's bloody war. According to the United Nations, 5,700 people have died in fighting since Ukraine attacked last April.

## How did the victory come about?

As a new ceasefire agreement was being negotiated by Kiev, Moscow, Paris and Berlin in mid-February, Novorossiyan forces successfully encircled several thousand Ukrainian troops using a World War II-era Soviet military maneuver called a cauldron. The "lid" of the cauldron — preventing the free movement of Kiev's troops and supplies — was slammed shut in the area of the town of Debaltsevo.

After the second Minsk ceasefire was inked on Feb. 12, Donetsk Prime Minister Zakharchenko reported that it would not affect the militia's efforts in the cauldron. Last September, in contrast, Novorossiyan forces were pulled back from the gates of the Ukrainian-occupied port city of Mariupol when the first Minsk ceasefire took effect, reportedly at the Russian government's insistence.

After days of intense fighting, the Ghost Brigade commanded by Alexei Mozgovoi and other Novorossiyan forces swept into Debaltsevo and surrounding villages on Feb. 18, freeing residents held as virtual hostages in their basements for weeks by the occupiers. International communist volunteers in the Ghost Brigade's Unit 404 played a key role in the operation.

Hundreds of Ukrainian troops surrendered. Thousands more were allowed to leave — but only after abandoning their weapons and equipment to the Novorossiyan militias.

Novorossiyan forces are still clearing out pockets of resistance from hardcore fascist elements of the National Guard and volunteer battalions and gathering an enormous amount of abandoned arms and war materiel, much of it from the United States and other NATO powers.

## U.S. continues war push

Exactly one year after the fascist-dominated "EuroMaidan" coup in Kiev overthrew Ukraine's elected government, the junta headed by Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko suffered a military defeat while NATO and Wall Street suffered a political defeat. The reverberations spread almost immediately.

While Russian news reports showed Ghost Brigade Unit 404 raising the Soviet red flag over Debaltsevo, some 100,000 people marched in Moscow Feb. 21 to pro-



Ghost Brigade fighter raises red flag over Debaltsevo region.

test the anniversary of the Ukrainian coup. Others marched in cities around the world, from Brussels to New York.

Would this defeat convince the Obama administration and Republican Congressional leaders to reconsider their belligerent course toward increasing arms shipments to Ukraine and threatening Russia, which played a key role in securing the Feb. 15 ceasefire?

No. Instead, Secretary of State John Kerry threatened Russia with more sanctions, repeating Kiev's well-tread lies of "Russian occupation" in Donbass.

Republican Sen. John McCain, who in December 2013 appeared at a EuroMaidan rally in Kiev with neo-Nazis, rejected the ceasefire deal out of hand.

And just as before, Ukrainian forces continue to violate the ceasefire with daily terror attacks on civilian targets in Donbass.

"The fire is not as loud and frequent as in January and early February, but a total silence is out of the question," a Donetsk resident told Sputnik News Feb. 22.

Poroshenko announced the formation of a 4,500-strong Ukraine-Polish-Latvian military division — a possible prelude to NATO intervention by these U.S. client regimes. (RT.com, Feb. 20)

## What next for Donbass?

Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vadim Pristayko boasted to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that Ukraine is preparing for a "full-scale war." According to him, Kiev is "no longer afraid to enter a conflict with a nuclear country." ([tinyurl.com/07zokru](http://tinyurl.com/07zokru)) Poroshenko ally Vadim Denisenko told Ukraine's Channel 5 that he hoped for NATO bombing in the next several months. (Sputnik News, Feb. 18)

Poroshenko has also called for Western peacekeepers to be stationed in the conflict zone.

Poroshenko's own future is now in doubt, however. Many are asking if he will be pushed out by oligarchs further to the right and their neo-Nazi agents like Dmitry Yarosh, head of the infamous Right Sector. Yarosh declared that his fascist gang would keep fighting despite the ceasefire.

The role of communists and radical anti-fascists like Alexei Mozgovoi in the Debaltsevo victory should give a welcome boost to the left pole in Novorossiia as the people's republics prepare to mark the 70th anniversary of the May 9, 1945, Soviet victory against Nazi Germany.

At the same time, Ukraine's renewed offensive in January, and its defeat in February, is a setback to those who thought an accommodation with the junta was possible or even desirable.

For more than two decades, U.S. strategy has been to work toward the break-up of Russia to make it easier to control and exploit that region. This has continued under both Democrats and Republicans, conservative and "liberal" administrations. Kerry's words show Washington is still determined to place NATO bases on Russia's western border to pressure political change in Moscow.

Today Novorossiia is the front line of armed resistance against austerity, fascism and NATO expansion. The people's republics need international solidarity to guarantee their military victory turns into a powerful movement to push back U.S.-NATO expansion throughout the region. □

## West Virginia

# Oil train derails, explodes

By Benji Pyles  
Huntington, W.Va.

A 109-car CSX train derailed along the Fayette-Kanawha county line 33 miles southeast of Charleston, W.Va., on Feb. 16. The result was a crude oil spill into the Kanawha River and massive fireballs shooting hundreds of feet high, causing one home to catch fire. About 1,000 people were evacuated from the affected area and two public water intakes on the river were closed.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin has placed Fayette and Kanawha counties under a state of emergency. Officials say they have yet to determine the cause of the incident.

Eyewitness Randy Fitzwater told West Virginia's MetroNews: "I heard this loud noise. It sounded like a jet airplane flying over my house real low ... and then I heard an explosion, and I looked out my window and across the river and I could see this big ball of flame. I thought a jet airplane had crashed."

David McClung said he "felt the heat" of the accident from his home a half mile away from the scene. "It was a little scary. It was like an atomic bomb went off," he told the Associated Press.

The train was transporting crude oil from the Bakken shale formation in North Dakota to an oil depot in Yorktown, Va. Federal regulators say this oil is more volatile and dangerous to transport than other types of crude oil.

Back in January 2014, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration stated that crude oil from the Bakken shale region may be more flammable and dangerous to ship by rail than traditional heavy crude from other regions. The agency came to that conclusion after a four-month study.

Just two days before the latest West

Virginia accident, on Feb. 14, a train carrying Bakken crude oil derailed in northern Ontario, Canada, spilling oil and causing a fire. In that incident, 29 of the 100 cars on the train went off the tracks near Timmins, Ontario. An "unknown amount" of oil was spilled.

CSX reported that all the tanker cars in the West Virginia derailment were the new CPC 1232 models. They include safety upgrades voluntarily adopted by some in the industry four years ago and are supposed to be safer than the older DOT-111 tankers. The federal government has been seeking to phase out the DOT tankers because they have been found to be vulnerable to ripping open in an accident or derailment, resulting in fires and explosions.

This is not the first time, however, that the supposedly safer 1232 models have failed to prevent crude oil explosions. Last April, a 105-car CSX crude oil train traveling the same route as the West Virginia train derailed in Lynchburg, Va. Several of the 17 tank cars that went off the track and fell into the James River were 1232 models, including one that spilled about 30,000 gallons of Bakken crude, causing a massive fire.

Earlier, in July 2013, an accident involving a train carrying Bakken crude killed 47 people in the small town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

Just in the last year, crude oil trains have twice derailed in Philadelphia. And in March, a similar event took place near Albany, N.Y. In these heavily populated areas, the results could have been catastrophic. Fortunately, the tank cars in these derailments did not leak or explode.

How many lives will it take before meaningful safety measures are imposed on the transportation of this extremely hazardous commodity? □

# U.S. causes instability in Libya, Nigeria

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Egyptian planes struck Libya on Feb. 16 following Islamic State operatives' brutal execution of Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi then appealed for military intervention by the "international community." The call suggests that Al-Sisi, who headed a military coup against elected Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in July 2013, wants a renewed imperialist-led campaign in North Africa, with Libya's political crisis and the presence of IS as a pretext.

The Egyptian airstrikes killed mainly civilians. Washington annually subsidizes Cairo with over \$2 billion in taxpayer funds, most of it for Egyptian military joint cooperation agreements with the Pentagon and CIA.

The evidence of the last four years shows that another aggressive Pentagon-NATO operation in Libya would be just as disastrous as the outcome of the regime-change war in 2011. The ongoing conflict inside Libya has spread instability throughout other regions of North and West Africa, creating conditions for the escalation of foreign occupations from France as well

as the U.S. in nearby Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad and other states.

Since the 2011 U.S.- and NATO-sponsored counterrevolution against the government led by Col. Moammar Gadhafi, there has been an escalation of internecine violence in Libya, including the targeting of Christians and their churches. Under Gadhafi's Jamahiriya system of government before 2011, the country was guided by a secular ideology based on popular committees and mass organizations.

The 2011 Pentagon-NATO bombings lasted for over seven months, during which NATO coordinated disparate rebel groups that marched along the trail established through aerial bombardments across strategic areas of the country. This imperialist-led war destroyed Libya as a nation-state. It left no viable political, social, military, cultural or legal institutions within the country that could stabilize Libyan society.

The corporate media and U.S. government officials often overlook or distort the role of the CIA, the Pentagon and NATO in destabilizing Libya. This process of destabilization continues through the presence of intelligence and military assets inside the country, and it contin-

ues with the Egyptian intervention.

Another series of bombing by IS in the town of al-Qubba in the east of Libya on Feb. 20 killed over 40 people. The BBC reported that day: "Three bombs exploded, targeting a petrol station, a police station and the home of parliamentary speaker Agila Salah, a security source told the news group. According to an online statement, IS fighters said they struck in retaliation for Egyptian air strikes."

## Annual U.S. maneuvers in West Africa

Washington has also conducted military maneuvers in West Africa ostensibly as a show of support in the increasingly regional fight against Boko Haram. Nonetheless, elements in the Nigerian government have said the role of Washington has been less than helpful in the conflict which has killed over 10,000 people and dislocated millions. (AllAfrica.com, Feb. 11)

Since 2009, Boko Haram has carried out a military campaign against the central government through attacking and occupying large swaths of territory in the northeast of the country. The rebels have also carried out operations in neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

Reuters on Feb. 16 reported, "Chad launched a U.S.-backed counter-terrorism exercise on Monday [Feb. 8] with 1,300 soldiers from 28 African and Western countries, billing it as a warm-up for an offensive against Nigeria's Islamist insurgent group Boko Haram. The 'Flintlock' maneuvers unfolded as Chad and four neighboring states prepare a task force to take on Boko Haram, the biggest security threat to Africa's top oil producer Nigeria and an increasing concern to countries bordering it."

The Christian Science Monitor noted on Feb. 18 the international character of the U.S.-led operations, saying, "It includes counter-terrorism forces not only from the U.S. but from other Western countries and a number of African militaries including several of the armies that have pledged to support Nigeria in its battle against the jihadists."

Nigeria was scheduled to hold national elections on Feb. 14 and 28 for the presidency, parliament and local government offices. On the recommendation of Nigeria's armed forces, the Independent National Electoral Commission postponed the voting until late March and early April, saying the lack of security in war-impacted areas of the country precluded the holding of a free and fair vote.

The Nigerian military, along with forces from the impacted regional states, have reported counterinsurgency operations where hundreds of Boko Haram fighters were killed. It is nevertheless unclear if these offensive operations are adequate to break Boko Haram's military capacity.

Although Nigeria's government is closely allied with the imperialist states, including the U.S., there are tensions between Washington and Abuja. The U.S. is no longer the major importer of Nigerian crude oil, and it is reported that petroleum industry trade between the two countries has been severely curtailed.

At present, India is the largest purchaser of Nigerian oil. The drop in oil prices, which provide Nigeria with over 90 percent of its foreign exchange earnings, has prompted an economic crisis in the country. This crisis reflects Nigeria's dependence on oil exports for maintaining the national economy at its current level. □

## International forum supports Palestine



The International Forum for Justice in Palestine drew hundreds from Palestine and Palestinian solidarity activists from around the world to Beirut Feb. 22-23. Organized by Ma'an Bashour and the International Arab Center for Communication and Solidarity, the forum included representatives of all the major Palestinian organizations. There were also representatives of Hezbollah, Amal and other resistance groups in Lebanon; Syriza in Greece; the Tunisian Popular Front; ambassadors from Venezuela, Cuba, Sudan, Iran and Syria; and popular organizations from Ireland, Canada, France, Turkey, Al-

geria, Yemen and India, among others.

The delegation from the United States included anti-war and human rights activist Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, human rights attorneys Abdeen Jabara and Curtis Doebbler, Brian Becker of Answer, Lamont Lilly of FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) and Sara Flounders of the International Action Center.

Lilly (above) addressed the international forum on the Black Lives Matter movement and the links of solidarity with the Palestinian people fighting for their homeland and self-determination.

— Report and photo by Sara Flounders

## Moscow march against fascism in Ukraine



Moscow, Feb. 21 — Today marks the one-year anniversary of the U.S.-backed fascist coup in Ukraine. An important anti-fascist march, 100,000-strong, took place in central Moscow, with various shades of Russian political forces taking part. The front banner reads, "One Year Since Maidan: We Won't Forgive, We

Won't Forget." Our small U.S. delegation, guests of the Anti-Globalization Movement of Russia, was proud to have taken part in the demonstration. This writer is representing Detroit FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) in Moscow. Look for future updates.

— Story and photo by Tom Michalak

## INDIA

# Police attack demonstrators

By John Catalinotto

Under the normal rules of demonstrations of workers and poor people in Kolkata, India, people are allowed legal protests. Even "illegal" actions, such as peaceful civil disobedience mobilizations, are allowed in a stipulated area without police attack.

But when 30,000 people, young and old, men and women, were marching for workers and peasants' demands on Feb. 5 in this West Bengal city, the police changed the rules at the last minute, and the streets of this densely populated city ran with the blood of the demonstrators. Making a vicious attack on them, police sent 35 people to the hospital.

The confrontation between the demonstrators mobilized by the Socialist Unity Center of India (Communist) and the rightist government has set off a series of protests and mobilizations. The SUCI(C) organization and its supporters have earned the solidarity of workers' organizations around the world by standing strong against the attack.

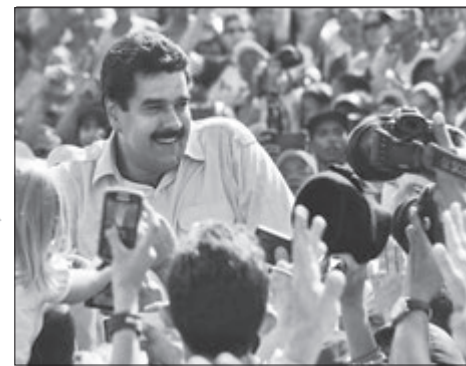
According to a SUCI(C) news release, the group was marching to promote 18-point demands that included bringing down rising prices, withdrawal of the anti-peasant Land Acquisition Bill, reduction of prices of 108 essential medicines, fair prices for the peasants, banning commercialization of education, lowering price rates for power, adoption of appropriate measures to stop growing crimes against women, etc. These are all demands to improve the lives of the poor in the West Bengal state.

The release reported: "The 30,000-

strong rally began its journey from College Square in central Kolkata towards Rani Rashmoni Road in Esplanade, the heart of the city. There were the protesters, the leaders and cadres of the Party, the supporters, sympathizers, periphery and the vast masses of common people, peasants and their families from the villages, workers from the industrial belts, middle class from the towns, students, youth, men, women, children with their parents, the old with their sons, daughters, relatives and neighbours. It was a vast mass, a surging wave of people effervescent yet resolute in fighting for their cause. Common people of Kolkata, in their turn, did not remain mere bystanders; they thronged on both sides of the street."

The police used long batons known as lathi and targeted the heads and necks of the demonstrators, apparently trying to do as much damage to the people as possible. No one was arrested, but many were injured. A SUCI(C) volunteer lost one eye, one student can't open one eye, another student's hand has been fractured and many more have broken limbs. Despite the relentless attack, the demonstrators fought to hold their ground and make their demands known.

SUCI(C) announced: "News of this massive rally, police atrocity, and injury of the demonstrators spread rapidly throughout the state" and "in the next two months, the Party would organize deputations, rallies, squatting, block level mass law violation, road blockades and such other forms of movement and finally there will be a higher program like encircling Governor House in Kolkata." □



El Presidente Nicolás Maduro.

## Gobierno Bolivariano detiene intento de golpe

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Desde que el Comandante Hugo Chávez llegó a la presidencia de Venezuela y se comenzó la Revolución Bolivariana, no ha habido un momento cuando la oposición, apoyada, y en gran medida dirigida por Estados Unidos, haya dejado de intentar derrocar al proceso revolucionario.

El intento de golpe más reciente contra Venezuela fue revelado este pasado 12 de febrero, cuando el presidente Maduro informó al pueblo el desmantelamiento de otro atentado, dando detalles sobre los planes recién descubiertos y la responsabilidad del gobierno de EUA.

Según dijo el Presidente Maduro, el golpe se iba a desarrollar en tres fases: 1ª sería la publicación del “Programa de Gobierno de Transición” en medios impresos, seguido por un ataque con un avión Tucano al Palacio de Miraflores, sede de la Presidencia y más de una decena de lugares que incluían departamentos gubernamentales y la estación central de Telesur. La tercera fase sería la publicación de un “vídeo de un general convicto y confeso del golpe de Estado del año pasado, quien informaría que la fuerza militar se había sublevado contra el presidente Nicolás Maduro y había sido derrocado”. (telesur, 12 de feb.)

El plan, sin embargo, fue desmantelado gracias a la diligente labor de inteligencia del gobierno bolivariano y la lealtad de oficiales jóvenes del ejército. Ya varios involucrados, entre ellos oficiales de aviación militar, están en manos de

la justicia y se sigue investigando.

Implicados en el intento golpista están asambleístas de derecha como Julio Borges, diputado a la Asamblea Nacional por el partido de la ultraderecha Primero Justicia; diecisiete militares activos que ya tenían visas del Depto. de Estado de EUA; María Corina Machado, conocida opositora que recibe fondos de la USAID; Leopoldo López, en prisión por promover las violentas guarimbas del 2014, y otros.

Estas últimas dos personas, junto al alcalde metropolitano de Caracas, Antonio Ledezma, firmaron el 11 de febrero el “Llamado a los venezolanos a un Acuerdo Nacional para la Transición”, un programa para revertir los logros de la Revolución Bolivariana y reestablecer el neoliberalismo en Venezuela, incluyendo la “inserción” del país en organismos internacionales como el FMI.

### Papel de EUA

El 14 de febrero el Presidente Maduro anunció en Telesur: “Estamos a punto de capturar a la persona que trajo el guion que iban a leer los oficiales y lo redactó un consejero de la embajada de Estados Unidos”. “Aseguró que todos los capturados han declarado y hasta el momento las autoridades ya saben cuánto dinero en dólares se pagó y de dónde salió el dinero”. (Telesur)

Por otro lado, un artículo publicado en Aporrea el 14 de febrero titulado ‘Blackwater USA sería la propietaria del avión Tucano que se utilizaría para bombardear a Caracas y derrocar a Maduro’ dice que el avión “sería propor-

cionado por una contratista privada de seguridad estadounidense que obtuvo la aeronave para labores de adiestramiento de pilotos”.

Aparte de la concesión de visas para los oficiales golpistas, es la misma declaración de la Casa Blanca estadounidense en su “Estrategia de Seguridad Nacional” de febrero de 2015 que revela sin lugar a dudas, su posición respecto a Venezuela: “nosotros estamos con los ciudadanos donde la democracia está en riesgo, como en Venezuela”. (whitehouse.gov)

### Respuesta del pueblo bolivariano

Este último intento de golpe y la injerencia de Estados Unidos, ha despertado una ola de indignación y solidaridad en todo el mundo. Pero es en la misma Venezuela, donde este apoyo a su gobierno ha sido crucial. Desde la juventud bolivariana, partidos políticos de izquierda como el PSUV, el Partido Comunista de Venezuela, Patria Para Todos, el Movimiento de Mujeres Campesinas, el Movimiento Social Afrodescendientes de Venezuela y otros, han salido a las calles y han hecho declaraciones públicas apoyando la gestión del gobierno y en contra de la intervención estadounidense.

El domingo 15 de febrero, Workers World-Mundo Obrero habló con el diputado a la Asamblea Nacional por la Coordinadora Simón Bolívar (CSB), Juan Contreras. La CSB, basada en el histórico barrio 23 de enero en Caracas representa las aspiraciones del pueblo pobre venezolano.

Contreras mencionó tres aspectos que están estrangulando la economía de Venezuela: la baja de precio del petróleo, el contrabando de alimentos hacia países fronterizos y la guerra económica por los empresarios que intentan esconder los alimentos en la cadena de distribución para causar carestía en el pueblo. Esto ha provocado gran movilización del pueblo. Dice: “la única manera de frenar las pretensiones tanto de los sectores apátridas dirigidos por esa burguesía rancia que tiene un libreto desde el norte, ha sido la movilización”.

Y ahonda diciendo que hasta ahora pese a la ayuda de EUA, esa burguesía no ha triunfado gracias a dos claves importantes del proceso bolivariano: “una es esa disposición de cambio del pueblo y segundo, la unidad cívico-militar que ha frenado durante este tiempo esas apetencias de querer hacerse de poder por la vía fácil a través de golpe de estado, salida violenta, desestabilizando; cualquiera de estas jugadas que han tratado de hacer tanto los sectores de la burguesía como del imperio EUA”.

Y termina con un llamado a la solidaridad. Al pueblo de EUA a que “conozca la realidad del pueblo venezolano, que ... no se dejen engañar ni por sus gobiernos ni por estas grandes corporaciones internacionales que mienten descaradamente sobre la realidad de Venezuela”.

El proceso bolivariano venezolano es eso, un proceso viviente, y como tal dialéctico. Es lucha constante que necesita la solidaridad de todos los pueblos. □

## 5.000 obreros petroleros en huelga

Por Martha Grevatt

Toledo, Ohio – Desde el 1º de febrero, miles de trabajadores petroleros alrededor del país – miembros del sindicato United Steelworkers [USW por las siglas en inglés] – han estado en huelga a causa de prácticas laborales injustas. Esta es una huelga grande que involucra a 5.000 trabajadores de 11 refinerías en California, Texas, Kentucky, el estado de Washington, Indiana y Ohio. Los piquetes comenzaron contra la Shell, Tesoro y LyondellBasell y el 7 de febrero se añadieron dos instalaciones de BP a la huelga.

“Shell se negó a darnos una contraoferta y abandonó la mesa de negociación”, declaró el presidente de la USW Leo Gerard, explicando que era una disputa por práctica laboral injusta. “No tuvimos más remedio que dar aviso de un paro de labores”. (Abc7.com/news) Shell es el principal negociador de las compañías petroleras afectadas.

El contrato principal del USW cubre 30.000 trabajadoras/es petroleros en 230 refinerías, oleoductos, terminales y plantas petroquímicas. Ellas/os han sido representados por el USW desde que el sindicato absorbió al sindicato PACE (por las siglas en inglés del Sindicato Internacional de Trabajadores de Papel, Industrias Aliadas, Química y Energía) en el 2005,

en sí una fusión de varios sindicatos, incluyendo al de Trabajadores del Petróleo, Química y Atómicos. Las 65 refinerías involucradas en las negociaciones producen el 64 por ciento del petróleo en los EUA.

El tema principal de la discordia es la seguridad en el trabajo. En una de las instalaciones afectadas, una refinería de Tesoro en Anacortes, Washington., siete trabajadores murieron en una explosión en el 2010.

Gary Beevers, vicepresidente internacional del USW, quien lidera el Programa Nacional de negociación del sindicato explicó: “Este paro laboral es sobre horas extras abusivas; niveles inseguros de dotación de personal; condiciones peligrosas que la industria sigue ignorando; las ocurrencias diarias de incendios, emisiones, fugas y explosiones que amenazan a las comunidades circundantes sin que la industria haga mucho al respecto; el rechazo de la industria de ofrecer oportunidades para los trabajadores; la flagrante contratación externa que afecta la salud y la seguridad en el trabajo; y la erosión de nuestro lugar de trabajo, donde los trabajadores sindicalizados cualificados y experimentados son reemplazados por contratistas cuando se van o se jubilan”. (ABC 7 News)

Los trabajadores están en pie de lucha y ganando apoyo en lo que es la pri-

mera huelga nacional de la industria del petróleo desde 1980. En la refinería de BP en Whiting, Indiana, el sindicato tiene casi 6.000 “me gusta” en su página de Apoyo a la Huelga de la USW Local 7-1 en Facebook. Las fotos en la página muestran delegaciones de simpatizantes de la Asociación de Maestros de Lake Central, la Asociación Nacional de Carteros Local 1326 y el Sindicato de Trabajadores Automotrices Local 551 piqueteando con los trabajadores petroleros.

Scott Houldieson, activista del Local 551 y electricista de Ford, ya ha visitado los piquetes en varias ocasiones, siempre con una nueva delegación. En una ocasión, su presidente local se unió a él para presentar a los trabajadores en huelga una donación de \$900.

“El martes [10 de febrero] fui a la línea de piquete antes de ir al trabajo”, dijo Houldieson a WW-MO. “Conocí a cuatro electricistas de BP. Empezamos a hablar sobre el derrame de petróleo de BP Deepwater Horizon que mató a 11 trabajadores y sobre la explosión de la refinería Texas City donde murieron 15 trabajadores y decenas fueron heridos. Se hizo evidente que no se trataba de una huelga solo sobre salarios y condiciones de trabajo. Esto no era solo un problema para los trabajadores de BP sino un tema importante para las comunidades aledañas que pu-

dieran ser gravemente afectadas por una calamidad en la enorme refinería”.

En Toledo, Ohio, donde está ubicada otra refinería de la BP que está en huelga, 150 miembros y simpatizantes del USW Local 1-346 se reunieron y marcharon en temperaturas casi bajo cero. Oradores del local en huelga y otras locales del sindicato además del director de distrito del USW David McCall, se mostraron optimistas sobre la huelga y enfatizaron la cuestión principal: la seguridad de los trabajadores y la comunidad circundante. Los trabajadores gritaban “Sin contrato, no hay paz” y “Refinerías seguras salvan vidas” mientras marchaban. Los trabajadores manejaron más de una hora desde la Local 1299 USW en Detroit y partes de Ohio para unirse bajo un crudo frío con los huelguistas de Toledo.

La solidaridad está creciendo en todo el país. En Boston, miembros del Local 8751 USW que integran el Equipo de Solidaridad, la Voz de las/os Trabajadores Unidos de los Autobuses Escolares, declararon en un comunicado solidario: “La huelga de los trabajadores petroleros es una batalla de primera línea que merece la solidaridad de todas/os los trabajadores y sectores de la sociedad. Nuestro Equipo de Solidaridad está dispuesto a ayudar en esta huelga heroica e importante en cualquier manera que podamos”. □